3. Institute of Development Studies, UK

4. Institute of Social Studies, the Hague

5. International Center for Promotion of Enterprises, Slovenia

6. Asian Institute of Management, Philipines

The Government has also decided to introduce mandatory mid career training for IAS officers. In order to assist in the design and delivery of these mid career programmes, the Government of India propose to invite offers from a wide range of leading institutes, globally. Selections would be made from out of offers that are received.

The major advantage in seeking offers globally is to ensure that we are able to use the best capabilities available in the field of public policy and management and that our civil services are second to none in the world.

Imbalance in regional development

3800. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that development activities in various regions are not even and are resulting in regional imbalance; and

(b) if so, the details, with allocation made for various developmental activities during the last five years, year-wise and region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) There are disparities in the levels of development of different regions owing to differnces in resource endowment, level of infrastructure and socio-economic parameters.

(b) Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in operation across the country. In addition, in 2003-04, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana was launched to provide for expedited development in identified areas. This initiative has three components, namely, Special Plan for Bihar with a provision of Rs. 1000 crore per year in the Tenth Plan; Special Plan for the eight districts of erstwhile Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) with a provision of Rs. 250 crore per year in the Tenth Plan (earlier KBK was allocated Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 243.95 crore from 1998-99 to 2001-02 and Special Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crore in 2002-03); and the Backward Districts Initiative covering 147 districts with a provision of Rs. 15 crore per year per district for three years.